

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant:	John C. Opie	Docket No.:	032303.00018
Application No.:	10/559,400	Group Art Unit:	3763
Filing Date:	May 25, 2006	Examiner:	Not Yet Assigned
TITLE	SURGICAL DRAINS		

### INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT PURSUANT TO 37 C.F.R. §§1.97-1.98

Mail Stop Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Commissioner:

In accordance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. §1.56 and pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§1.97-1.98, Applicant hereby notifies the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office of the documents listed on the attached Form PTO-1449. A copy of the foreign reference listed on the attached Form PTO-1449 is submitted herewith. Copies of the U.S. patent documents listed on the attached Form PTO-1449 are not required pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.98(a)(2)(ii).

The submission of the listed documents is not intended as an admission that any such documents constitute prior art against the claims of the present application. Applicant reserves the right to dispute the listed documents as prior art during examination. Further, Applicant does not waive any right to take any action that would be appropriate to antedate or otherwise remove any listed documents as a competent reference against the claims of the present application. Furthermore, the submission of this Information Disclosure Statement is not to be construed as a representation that a search has been made or that no other material information may exist.

Applicant respectfully submits that all pending claims are patentable over the foregoing references. The Examiner is requested to initial the enclosed Form PTO-1449 and return a copy thereof to the undersigned.

The present Information Disclosure Statement is being filed before the mailing of the first Office action on the merits and therefore no fee under 37 C.F.R. §1.17(p) is required.

This statement does NOT authorize charge of the issue fee. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fee specifically authorized hereafter, or any deficiency in the fee(s) filed, or asserted to be filed, or which should have been filed herewith or concerning any paper filed hereafter, and which may be required under 37 C.F.R. §§1.16-1.18 (deficiency only) now or hereafter relative to this application and the resulting official document under 37 C.F.R. §1.20, or credit any overpayment to Account No. 19-3878 for which purpose a duplicate copy of this sheet is attached.

Respectfully submitted,

December 12, 2007  
Date

By /Alex Starkovich/  
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